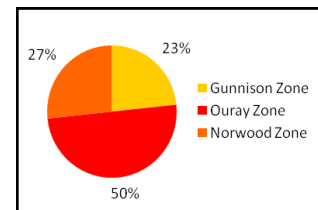
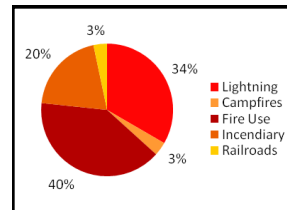
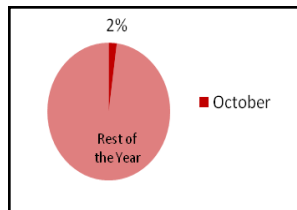




WILDFIRE PREVENTION GUIDE

Historically, a dramatic decrease in fire activity begins in October in looking at the previous ten year period. For those fires occurring in October, the activity tends to be the result of lightning in the Norwood and Ouray Zones, as well as debris burning on the Gunnison and Ouray Zones.



A lesser, but still significant, fire cause in October has historically been incendiary fires – or those wildfires that are deliberately and/or maliciously set with the intent to damage or defraud. Incendiary fires have historically occurred in the Ouray Zone almost exclusively.

	Lightning	Campfires	Smoking	Debris	Incendiary	Equipment	Railroads	Juveniles	Misc.	TOTAL
Gunnison Zone	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	7
Ouray Zone	4	0	0	5	5	0	1	0	0	15
Norwood Zone	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8
Total	10	1	0	12	6	0	1	0	0	30

After several months of sharing fire history for the area as a means of anticipating the potential for the current month's fire activity, a natural question would be what type of departure are we experiencing from the ten-year average? In comparing the current year's fire activity with the ten-year average, the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit is currently at 68% of the ten-year average. The most significant differences are a later start to the fire season and a less active July as compared to the average.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	TOTAL
10 Yr. Avg.	0.2	1.1	9.2	6.7	9.7	31.3	44.0	26.8	9.8	138.8
Actual	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	7.0	28.0	22.0	23.0	7.0	95.0

NOTE: "Actual" data includes both "wildfires" and "smoke investigations," but does not include "prescribed burns." This is most similar comparison using the two different data sets.

WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL

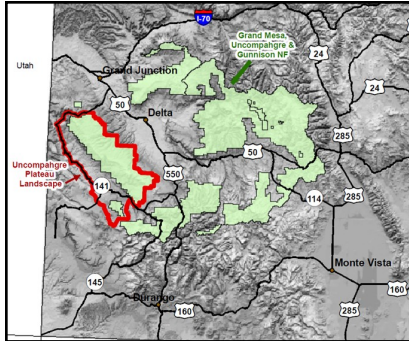
The West Region Wildfire Council CWPP Coordinator job announcement was distributed at the end of September. The announcement is open until October 25th. Applications will be reviewed by the WRWC Steering Committee, and the membership as a whole, at the Council's next meeting. The Steering Committee will rank the applications and then schedule interviews during November. The newly formed WRWC Steering Committee is made up of a state representative (Jodi Rist - CSFS Montrose

District Forester), county representative (Scott Morrill – Gunnison County Emergency Manager), fire district representative (Jason Cooley – Delta County Fire District), and a federal liaison (Chris Barth – MIFMU).

The next WRWC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 28th at Delta County Fire Protection District #1 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. A representative from Anchor Point is planning to attend the meeting to provide the Council with an update on the four county-wide CWPPs currently in development.

COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT

The Uncompahgre Plateau will receive approximately \$9 million in CFLRP funding over the next ten years. The funding will be matched by USFS and partnership funds for a total project cost of at least \$17 million.



The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) was established by Congress, under Title IV of Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The purpose of the CFLRP is to encourage the

collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, stressed the importance of forest restoration in August 2009 by calling for “complete commitment to restoration.” In his speech, the Secretary highlighted the need for pursuing an “all lands approach to forest restoration” and called for coordination with other landowners to encourage collaborative solutions through landscape-scale operations. CFLRP provides a means to achieve these goals and to also:

- encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability
- leverage local resources with national and private resources
- facilitate the reduction of wildfire management costs, including reestablishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire
- demonstrate the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve

ecological and watershed health objectives

- encourage utilization of forest restoration by -products to offset treatment costs, to benefit local rural economies, to and improve forest health

Title IV establishes the CFLR Fund providing funding authority for:

- requests by the Secretary of up to \$40,000,000 annually for fiscal years 2009 through 2019
- up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System (NFS) land for each proposal selected
- up to \$4 million annually for any one project
- up to two projects per year in any one FS region
- up to 10 projects per year nationally

To be considered for the use of the CFLR Fund, project proposals must meet eligibility criteria in Title IV and must be nominated by the Regional Forester for consideration by the Secretary.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

San Miguel County is in the process of updating their All-Hazard Plan. The initial plan, originally completed in 2005, was adopted by San Miguel County and the five incorporated towns within the county. The updated plan will enable San Miguel County to continue to be eligible for mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

San Miguel County hosted an initial stakeholder meeting to update the plan on October 7th. The intent of the meeting was to review

existing plans within the County that would have an impact on hazard mitigation planning. The group also assessed the current list of mitigation actions (from the 2005 plan), and added additional mitigation needs to the list. Finally, the group provided input on the relative risk of each hazard from their field of expertise.

The group will be meeting again on November 10th at the Telluride fire house. For more information, contact Jennifer Dinsmore (jenniferd@sanmiguelcounty.org).

LEGISLATION

In 2009, a diverse group of interests came together for the specific purpose of advocating a fix for the fire suppression funding challenge. That group believed that the establishment of a Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) fund would help to move towards a sustainable suppression funding mechanism better suited to deal with the escalating costs of fighting fires.

The FLAME Act was signed into public law (PL 111-88) on October 30, 2009 as a component of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. The Flame Act provided for creation of the FLAME Funds, which shall be available to cover the costs of large or complex wildfire events and as a reserve when amounts provided for wildfire suppression and Federal emergency response are exhausted. Further, the Act defined a need for a Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy. It states that “(n)ot later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting jointly, shall submit to Congress a report that contains a cohesive wildfire management strategy, consistent with the recommendations described in recent reports of the Government Accountability Office regarding management strategies.” The Act goes on to say that the

cohesive strategy must include the following elements:

- (1) the identification of the most cost-effective means for allocating fire management budget resources;
- (2) the reinvestment in non-fire programs by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (3) employing the appropriate management response to wildfires;
- (4) assessing the level of risk to communities;
- (5) the allocation of hazardous fuels reduction funds based on the priority of hazardous fuels reduction projects;
- (6) assessing the impacts of climate change on the frequency and severity of wildfire; and
- (7) studying the effects of invasive species on wildfire risk.

A DRAFT report to congress dated October 2010 addresses the specific elements (*above*) requested by Congress in the FLAME Act and expands upon those elements by providing a roadmap for the future – the Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy.

You can follow the development of the FLAME Act from its beginnings in the 110th - 2nd session of Congress (H.R. 5541 / S.3256) to the 111th - 1st session of Congress (H.R. 1404) to where it was ultimately passed into law (PL-111-88) in the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

GRANTS & AGREEMENTS

Community Assistance

Funding to assist our partners in preparedness and mitigation activities is facing similar challenges as the other areas of the federal government. In 2011, Community Assistance (CA) funds will be substantially less than those available in 2010. A national mandate requires that CA be funded at a minimum of 3% of the BLM fuels budget. With the fuels budget for the unit currently funded at 42% of the planned cost – there is little assistance available to work with cooperators on private property. Of the \$223,600 in funded BLM fuels projects on the unit, \$6,813 will be used for Community Assistance awards on the unit in FY11. That is a 93.5% reduction from the \$101,000 of Community Assistance awarded on the unit in FY10. However, FY10 was an exceptional year for CA funding with several one-time additions for the unit. The West Region Wildfire Council received the \$101,000 CA award in 2010, and will be implementing many of the FY10 CA

funds in FY11 as fuels reduction projects on private lands in wildland urban interface communities. Part of the FY10 award will also provide funding for the WRWC CWPP Coordinator.

Rural Fire Assistance / Ready Reserve Program

We continue to operate under the assumption that both Rural Fire Assistance and the Ready Reserve Program will not be funded in FY11. Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) program provides funding to improve the capacity and capabilities of rural and volunteer fire departments that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires within, or in the vicinity of lands managed by the Department of Interior (DOI). The Ready Reserve Program (RRP) functions to increase wildland fire operational safety, effectiveness, and capacity of rural fire departments serving as cooperators with the DOI.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Of the six counties within the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit (MIFMU), two counties have completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs). The four remaining counties are currently working to complete their plans. Each of the four remaining counties are working with the Anchor Point Group as the fire management consultants to develop their plans. The remaining CWPPs are scheduled to be completed by, or before, April 1, 2011 - the required completion date as set forth in Colorado Senate Bill (SB) 09-001.

Montrose County CWPP

Field work for the Montrose County CWPP will occur the week of October 18th. Anchor Point will be meeting with Paradox and Nucla/Naturita Fire Protection Districts on October 19th, Montrose Fire Department on October 21st, and Horsefly Fire Protection Association on October 22nd. Members of the community will be invited to participate in a review of the identified wildland urban interface communities, wildfire risk, and recommendations for mitigation of risk during a public meeting schedule to take place in January 2011.

Delta County CWPP

Field work for the Delta County CWPP is completed with the exception of the area covered by Hotchkiss Fire Protection District. Anchor Point consultants will be meeting with Hotchkiss Fire Protection District on October 21st. With the exception of the communities within the Hotchkiss area, the stakeholders have identified and mapped the wildland urban interface communities within Delta County. Members of the community will be invited to participate in a review of the identified wildland urban interface communities, wildfire risk, and recommendations for mitigation of risk during a public meeting schedule to take place in January 2011.

Ouray County CWPP

Field work for the Ouray County CWPP is complete. Anchor Point is currently working on designating the various communities and areas of special interest. As a result of discussion with stakeholders in Ouray County, Anchor Point will be adding the designations of historical structures and critical infrastructure for Ouray County's CWPP. Members of the community will be invited to participate in a review of the identified wildland urban interface communities, wildfire risk, and recommendations for mitigation of risk during a public meeting schedule to take place in January 2011.

Gunnison County CWPP

Field work for the Gunnison County CWPP will be completed the week of October 25th. Anchor Point consultants have already conducted preliminary field work in the areas of Ohio City, Arrowhead, Pitkin, Crested Butte, and Marble. Members of the community will be invited to participate in a review of the identified wildland urban interface communities, wildfire risk, and recommendations for mitigation of risk during a public meeting schedule to take place in January 2011.

San Miguel County CWPP

With their CWPP completed by Anchor Point in 2009, San Miguel County is continuing to work on implementation of the recommendations outlined in their plan. San Miguel County is also working on an update to the All-Hazard Plan - which relies on the CWPP for wildland fire related risks.

Hinsdale County CWPP

Hinsdale County's CWPP was completed this past August. Hinsdale County is preparing to hire a CWPP Project Coordinator using Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Act Title III funds.



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October 2010

FALL RX BURNS

The fall prescribed burn season was very successful. Of the nine planned burns, the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit was able to complete seven of them by mid-October. Crews from the Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests were able to take advantage of favorable weather and fuel conditions.

The burns reduced dense vegetation and fuels which will lessen damage that could be caused by catastrophic wildfires. At the same time, they will ultimately improve wildlife habitat, regenerate new growth and create more plant diversity across the landscape.

More than 2100 acres were treated out of a planned 2585 acres (82%).

Completed

Bear Paw Burn (Forest Service): 400 acres

Columbine Burn (Forest Service): 250 acres

Chaffee Burn (BLM/CDOW): 500 acres

Escalante Burn (Forest Service): 340 acres

Highway 90 Burn (BLM): 20 acres

Partially Completed

Dry Park Burn (BLM): 400 acres

Planned

Simms Mesa Burn (Forest Service): 300 acres



Bear Paw Burn - 400 acres of oakbrush, located on Forest Service lands 7 miles SE of Paonia along the South Fork of Minnesota Creek



MIFMU MONTHLY



Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MIFMU>



Look for new updates to come to the MIFMU website in 2010

http://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/dispatch_centers/r2mtc/

October Events

- *Hauser Creek Fire, San Diego, California, October 2, 1943 - 9 firefighter killed*
- *Griffith Park Fire, Los Angeles, California, October 3, 1933 - 29 firefighters killed*
- **MIFMU Fuels Conference Call, October 4**
- *Ontario Fire, Ontario, Canada, October 4, 1922 - 44 people killed*
- *Peshtigo Fire, Peshtigo, Wisconsin, October 8, 1871 - as many as 2,400 people killed*
- **MIFMU Fuels Conference Call, October 18**
- *Pepper Hill Fire, Lick Island, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1938 - 8 firefighters killed*
- *Tunnel Fire, Oakland, California, October 20, 1991 - 25 people killed*
- *Esperanza Fire, Cabazon, California, October 26, 2006 - 5 firefighters killed*
- **Fire Behavior & Fuels Conference, Spokane, WA, October 25-29**
- **West Region Wildfire Council, Delta, CO, October 28**